



United States
Department of
Agriculture

May 5, 2010

Food and
Nutrition
Service

3101 Park
Center Drive
Alexandria, VA
22302-1500

SUBJECT: Fiscal Year 2011 State Plan Guidance

TO: Regional Directors
Supplemental Food Programs
All Regions

Attached for distribution to WIC State agencies is the fiscal year (FY) 2011 WIC Program State Plan Guidance. The guidance was revised as shown in the attached List of Updates/Changes.

Please remind State agencies to include an updated line item budget, with written narrative, demonstrating how peer counseling funds are being used for the peer counseling activities described in the State's Breastfeeding Peer Counseling Implementation Plan. State agencies are also reminded that, as set forth in WIC Policy Memorandum 2010-2 (Exclusion of Combat Pay from WIC Income Eligibility Determination, issued November 2, 2009), procedures must be in place to ensure that local agencies do not consider combat pay received by households that include service members as part of that household's income when establishing income eligibility for WIC benefits.

In addition, the implementation date for revisions included in WIC Policy Memorandum 98-9, Revision 10 (issued July 31, 2009), is October 1, 2010. The FY 2010 State Plan should include all draft policy, procedural, and information system changes, etc., as necessary, for FNS review to implement the policy revision(s). If a State agency intends to include the affected nutrition risk factors in its set of Allowable Nutrition Risk Criteria but is unable to meet the October 1, 2010, implementation date, it must submit a request for extension to the appropriate FNS Regional Office. Such requests must include a justification and a timeline for implementation. Regional Offices may extend the implementation deadline on a case-by-case basis, depending on the circumstances faced by the State agency.

Finally, State agencies should keep in mind that receipt of grant funds is conditional upon Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) approval of State Plans. Failure to submit a FY 2011 State Plan and/or amendment(s) that meet the requirements set forth in the attached guidance, except for reasons of "good cause," may subject a State agency to State Plan disapproval, which may result in FNS withholding a State agency's grant.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding this guidance please feel free to contact Tony Hardy at (703) 305-2715 or Joan Carroll at (703) 305-2729.

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Director
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